

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-20 DPW-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01

/163 W

----- 111647

R 171000Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6090

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 14893

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJ: REPORTERS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS INTO PRG TERRITORY

FOL CABLE SENT ACTION AE SAIGON AUG 15, FROM DANANG BEING
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE:

DANANG 1024

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: REPORTERS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS INTO PRG TERRITORY

1. ARRO HUE REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO JMC RVNDEL CHIEF, COL
HO NGOC TAM, A WOMAN CORRESPONDENT FOR BBC WAS TAKEN ACROSS
THE THACH HAN RIVER LAST WEEK BY MEMBERS OF THE ICCS HUNGDEL
WITHOUT RVN AUTHORIZATION. TAM IS INVESTIGATING THE REPORT AND
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IF IT IS TRUE, HE INTENDS TO PROTEST TO THE ICCS ABOUT THE

HUNGDEL'S ROLE IN THE UNAUTHORIZED CROSSING INTO PRG TERRITORY. ON AUGUST 12, A JAPANESE CORRESPONDENT, HIDECKI IKEUCHI, REPRESENTING KYODO NEWS SERVICE, ATTEMPTED TO CROSS THE THANCH HAN WITH AN ICCS TEAM ON ITS WAY TO THE REGULAR MONDAY MEETING WITH THE PRG BUT IKEUCHI WAS STOPPED BY RVN MILITARY POLICE. THE NEXT DAY THE REPORTER APPEALED TO JMC HEADQUARTERS FOR PERMISSION BUT WAS REFERRED BACK TO THE QUANG TRI PROVINCE CHIEF.

2. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSING THESE TWO CASES, COL TAM EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT SAIGON AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN REGION 1 OFFICIALS SUFFICIENT GUIDANCE FOR DEALING WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS SEEKING TO CROSS TO THE PRG AREA OF CONTROL. REPORTERS ARRIVE AT THE RIVER BANK CLAIMING OR ERRONEOUSLY ASSUMING THEY HAVE AUTHORIZATION TO CROSS THE RIVER. WHEN THEY ARE STOPPED BY THE POLICE AND THEN SHUNTED FROM ONE OFFICIAL TO ANOTHER THEY GIVE UP AND GO AWAY MUTTERING ABOUT "RVN OBSTRUCTIVE TACTICS." WE HAVE URGED TAM TO REQUEST SOME CLEAR-CUT GUIDELINES FROM SAIGON AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO AVOID UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY FROM WHAT IS LIKELY TO BE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF REPORTERS TRYING TO CROSS THE RIVER. TAM'S POSITION IS THAT CIVIL AUTHORITIES AND NOT THE JMC HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEARING AND MAKING LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOURNALISTS TO CROSS INTO PRG TERRITORY.

POPPL
UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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30 JUN 2005

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